



City of Portland, Oregon
Bureau of Development Services
Land Use Services
FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

Carmen Rubio, Commissioner
David Kuhnhausen, Interim Director
Phone: (503) 823-7300
TTY: 711
www.portland.gov/bds

Work Session

DISCUSSION MEMO

Date: July 12, 2024
To: Portland Design Commission
From: Benjamin Nielsen, Design / Historic Review Team
(503) 865-6519, benjamin.nielsen@portlandoregon.gov
Re: Montgomery Park Area Plan & Character Statement
Briefing Memo – July 18, 2024

This memo is regarding the upcoming work session on July 18, 2024, for the Montgomery Park Area Plan & Character Statement. The work session serves as a continuation of the joint Planning Commission/Design Commission hearing that was held on May 21, 2024, and the Design Commission work sessions held on June 6, 2024, and June 20, 2024.

- A recording of the 5/21/24 hearing may be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/live/ReUC0eA4vbY?si=iAX8qjc4XFZ3y51n>.
- A recording of the 6/6/24 work session may be found here:
<https://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/Record/16901286/>.
- A recording of the 6/20/24 work session may be found here:
<https://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/Record/16917733/>

The Bureau of Planning & Sustainability staff has provided a memo regarding the final steps in making a recommendation to City Council for the Montgomery Park Area Plan and Character Statement, and this memo includes a brief summary of Design Commission deliberations at the last work session. Additional documents from BPS include revised Character Statement, a summary table of revisions to the Character Statement, and a draft transmittal letter of recommendation to the City Council.

Design & Historic Resource Review staff believe that this revised Character Statement represents the Commission's deliberations and requested revisions well; although the wording of Bullet Point 5 under "Community Character" may still benefit from additional minor revision. My understanding of the deliberations was to change the language to remove "color, patterns, and/or artwork" to replace it with language that relies more on working with the community groups specified. Possible revised language that shifts the focus in this way could read:

Acknowledging and celebrating contributions of Portland's Communities of Color. Consider working with Black, Chinese, or Indigenous artists and designers to incorporate design elements and features that represent the history and continued contributions of these communities in the Plan Area.

If there are no additional major revisions that are needed to the Character Statement, it is anticipated that, at this work session, the Design Commission will vote on recommending that the Character Statement be adopted by City Council.

Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Attachments:

1. BPS Staff Memo, dated 7/11/24, plus additional attachments

Additional information:

Montgomery Park Area Plan: <https://www.portland.gov/bps/planning/mp2h/mpap-proposed-draft>

Written testimony from 5/21/24 hearing:

<https://www.portlandmaps.com/bps/testimony/#proposal=mp2h>